Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SECTO 04031 141944Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W
----------018764 141945Z /64
O R 141730Z APR 78 ZFF-6
FM USDEL SECRETARY IN DAR ES SALAAM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTO 4031

EXDIS

CAPETWON FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORT, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: PRE CHAND PARTICIPATION IN FUTURE CONFERENCES

1. SECRETARY VANCE AND DR. OWEN WITH LOW, GRAHAM AND CARVER MET BRIEFLY WITH PREM CHAND FRIDAY AFTERNOON. IN RESPONSE TO OWEN'S QUESTION CHAND SAID HE SAW THE INTERNAL GROUP DETERMINED TO MOVE AHEAD AND THE MILITARY SITUATION SOMEWHAT LESS SEVERE THAN EITHER THE RHODESIANS OR THE PATRIOTIC FRONT HAD PREDICTED. THE RAINY SEASON OFFENSIVE HAD NOT MATERIALIZED IN ANY SIGNIFICANT WAY.

2. DR. OWEN ASKED CHAND HOW HE SAW HIS ONGOING ROLE IN FORTHCOMING MEETINGS. CHAD REPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT HE COULD BE USEFUL IN URGING THE PF TO ACCEPT A NEGOTIATING STANCE AND PREPARE IT TO COMPROMISE ON CRUCIAL ISSUES. SO FAR AS SALISBURY WAS CONCERNED, IF THERE WERE NO OBJECTIONS RAISED BY
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PAGE 02 SECTO 04031 141944Z

ANY OF THE PARTIES HE WAS AUTHORIZED TO PARTICIPATE THERE ALSO. OWN ASKED LOW WHAT HE THOUGHT THE RHODESIAN REACTION WOULD BE ON THE BASIS OF HIS AND GRAHAM'S RECENT VISIT. LOW DESCRIBED THE SURPRISINGLY STRONG POSITION TAKEN BY THE RHODESIANS AGAINST THE ROVISIONS OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN FOR A UN MILITARY FORCE. HE THOUGHT SMITH WAS TAKING THIS POSITION BECAUSE IT SEEMED TO BE ONE IN WHICH THE AFRICANS FELT AT LEAST

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

AS CRITICAL OF THE AAP AS HE IF NOT MORE SO.

3. CHAND IMMEDIATELY COMMENTED THAT IF THAT WAS THE CASE, HE SAW NO PARTICULAR REASON FOR HIS GOING ON TO SALISBURY. THERE WAS LITTLE FURTHER HE COULD ADD AND HE DID NOT EXPECT THAT THE MEETINGS WOULD INVOLVE MILITARY PERSONNEL ANYWAY. OWEN SAID HE HAD NO VIEWS ON THE MATTER AND WOUD BE GLAD TO HANDLE IT EITHER WAY. IF CHAND WANTED TO GO HE WAS QUITE PREPARED TO SUPPORT HIM.

4. OWEN ASKED CHAND HIS VIEWS ON AN ALL-PARTY MEETING. ALL AGREED THAT HIS PRESENCE THERE WAS A A DIFFERENT MATTER FOR SALISBURY AND THAT THERE MIGHT BE A UN ROLE, IF NOT AT THE BEGINNING, AT LEAST AT SOME POINT IN THE CONFERENCE AND PERHAPS THROUGHOUT. THE PF WOULD PROBABLY WANT THE UN TO BE REPRESENTED AND TO COME AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE TO THE MALTA MEETING STRUCTURE.

5. ALTHOUGH NOTHING FINAL WAS SAID, WE RECEIVED THE CLEAR IMPRESSION HAT CHAND WILL MAKE IT CLEAR FROM THE BEGINNING THAT HE IS NOT PLANNING TO TRAVEL TO SALISBURY.
VANCE

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EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
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